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It seems to us it would be well not to undertake too many trails at first, but to have a definite program for two or three, and perhaps for marking the two great military roads, one in the southern and the other in the northern portion of the state. For instance: suppose you attempt to locate the Chicago-Green Bay trail (from the state boundary). If you carefully consult the accounts of early travelers and mail riders in the *Wisconsin Historical Collections* you can get the main lines in Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Brown counties. We recommend these references: *Collections*, IV, 282; VII, 239; XI, 229; XV, 453. Then take one cross-state trail from Milwaukee to Rock River and the lead mines. On this see *Collections*, VI, 139, and other references; also consult *Wau Bun*.

The old military road from Fort Howard to Fort Winnebago was the earliest road in the territory. It was continued along the military ridge in Iowa and Grant counties to Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien. Some progress has been made in studying its route through Dane County. The northern military road was built much later, between 1866 and 1871; it ran from Fort Howard northwestward, and was built by a grant of land.

If you can make a start in locating these trails and roads you will do good service for Wisconsin history. The old maps of early Wisconsin that we keep at the Library will be valuable to you in the study of these trails.

EARLY HISTORY OF WEST POINT

I would like to know anything of historical interest attaching to West Point on the western shore of Lake Mendota. I would particularly like information concerning the traders St. Cyr and Rowan, who are said to have been located here at an early day.

H. S. STAFFORD
Madison

So far as is known the earliest permanent habitation upon the Madison lakes was a small cabin built upon the northwest shore of Fourth Lake some time after 1829. In that year Judge James D. Doty and Morgan L. Martin crossed the country on horseback from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien. They took a trail from Green Lake that brought them to the Four Lakes, and they found a few Winnebago Indians on the north shore of Lake Mendota, but no white

trader. Wallace Rowan was a Kentucky miner, who had migrated first to Indiana, and then drifted into the lead region sometime during the rush of 1827. He mined for a time about Platteville, but was not successful, so in some way he obtained a small outfit of Indian goods and came into Winnebago territory to trade. The small one-room log cabin he built on the shore of Fourth Lake about 1830 was used both as a dwelling and a trading house. No doubt he kept a liberal supply of whisky and tobacco, the chief articles of Indian trade, a few blankets, cloth by the yard, ribbons, and cheap ornaments. He bought the beaver and muskrat skins trapped by the Indians, dressed deerskins, and any skunk or mink furs that the Winnebago brought in. During the spring of 1832 the Sauk Indians went on the warpath and the Winnebago were very restless. Rowan thought it safer to abandon his cabin and retreated apparently to Blue Mound fort, where he was during the war. When Major Henry Dodge with Indian Agent Henry Gratiot came to hold a council with the Four Lakes Indians, May 26, 1832, Rowan's cabin was empty. Dodge brought with him a volunteer troop of horse recruited in the lead mines, and they camped near Rowan's cabin the night of May 25. The council was held the next day with the few chiefs who had come in. The chiefs present were Old Turtle, whose village was at Beloit, Spotted Arm, Little Black, and Silver. Man Eater, the chief of a village on Lake Koshkonong, was ill and sent his sister and daughter to represent him.

Little Black was the orator. He declared that the Winnebago were not conspiring with Black Hawk, but would keep their tomahawks buried, that the sky was clear above them, and that they would have nothing to do with the enemy Sauk. Dodge reminded them of their treaty with their Great Father, the President, and all his white children, threatened to cut off their annuity if they failed to keep the treaty, and left them in a humbled frame of mind. Nevertheless, within a few days, one or two of the garrison who ventured out of the Blue Mound fort were murdered, and it was believed to be the deed of the Winnebago.

The war was over by August. That autumn the Winnebago were forced to cede all their lands south of the Wisconsin River and to promise to remove the next year. Rowan sold out his small post to

a half-breed Winnebago, Michel St. Cyr, who occupied the cabin in the autumn of 1832 with his Winnebago squaw and family. St. Cyr was here for five years. He seems to have been a kindly, pleasant-tempered man, as most French-Canadians were. His squaw kept the cabin cleaner than Mrs. Rowan had done, and it became a kind of tavern for white adventurers to the Four Lakes.

In 1833 Dodge sent two companies of United States Rangers, which were enlisted that spring, to see that the Winnebago kept their word and removed. They were very loath to go and made every sort of plea and excuse. Their agent, Gratiot, begged the government to let them stay one more year to gather a harvest, but the authorities were inexorable, and the Indians had to go. The troopers had several wagons, and would round up the little groups and transport them from the head of Fourth Lake to the Wisconsin River, probably down the Black Earth valley. It is said they slipped back again as soon as the soldiers' backs were turned, but their permanent villages were broken up. The troops camped at a big spring which they called Belle Fontaine, probably the one now known as Livesey's Springs.

St. Cyr remained on the spot until 1837; the surveyors who during the winter of 1836-37 laid out the capital stayed at his house. In July, 1836 Colonel William B. Slaughter of Virginia came to the Four Lakes and offered St. Cyr a couple of hundred dollars for his improvement, on the site of which he laid out the City of the Four Lakes. The plat is in the land office at the capitol. The streets were named for the territorial officers—Dodge, Horner, Jones, Dunn, Frazer, Chapman, and Gehon. The avenues were entitled for the states—New York, Virginia, Illinois, etc. Several houses were built, and lots were sold in the East. A university was planned; perhaps it was hoped to secure the territorial university for the site. Colonel Slaughter lived at this place for several years. The land afterwards passed into the possession of James Livesey, who lived there until a comparatively recent time.